

August 4 , 2010

# UU Eye

Volume 30 No. 11

*Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis*  
*Founded 1979*

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*Sunday, August 8, 2010*

**Rev. Stephen Sinclair's**

**First Sermon as UUI's Settled Minister**

**"This I Believe"**

What are beliefs? Are they what constitute faith? Are they different from knowingness? As a non-creedal religion Unitarian Universalism does not tell us what to believe, but rather encourages us to search for truth and to grow spiritually. For his first Sunday as UUI's settled minister, Pastor Stephen will share with the congregation what he believes and what his faith means to him. *Special music by THIN AIR*



**Services start at 10:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided.**  
*Church of the Warm Heart, Open Mind and Helping Hands*



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### *Eye Deadlines and Submissions*

The *Eye* welcomes your submissions about congregational life and programs. The *Eye* is published monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Submit material by e-mail to [ueeye@uui.org](mailto:ueeye@uui.org). **The next deadline is 8 p.m. Friday, August 27.**

*UUI is a Welcoming Congregation and a Certified Green Sanctuary under guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association.*



## The UU Eye

A monthly publication of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis  
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On the Web: [www.uui.org](http://www.uui.org)

*The UU Eye informs and sustains UUI's congregational life. It connects members and friends to our varied church activities, including worship, religious education, the arts and community actions. It presents information of consequence and interest to the congregation and also reflects and fosters our purpose as a congregation and as Unitarian Universalists.*

### *UUI Officers and Staff*

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## *Back in Indianapolis!*

*Rev. Stephen Sinclair*

It's wonderful to be back in Indianapolis. As great as it was to be in New York for the summer seeing my friends and working as a chaplain, the entire time I longed to be in Indy so I could begin my ministry with you. While there, I tried to get to all five of the UU congregations in NY, but only managed to visit three: All Souls, [First Unitarian Congregational Society Brooklyn](#) and Fourth Universalist Society. While waiting for the worship service to begin at Fourth Universalist a woman sat down next to me and introduced herself. It was Connie Baker, a former member of UUI. After I told her I had just been called to serve the congregation as settled minister, the couple seated behind us introduced themselves as members of the UU Church of Evansville! In the middle of Manhattan! I took this as a good omen and a welcome sign!

The past two weeks I've spent my time getting my office together. It's been lonely work as there is very little going on here weekdays during the summer. After a few days of unpacking boxes of books and sorting through files I decided to visit the sanctuary. I hadn't been in there since the second Sunday of candidating week and wanted to again feel all the love and good energy that I had felt during worship and after the membership meeting in May. I unlocked the door, walked to the front and sat down ready to feel all the good stuff that I remembered. I waited. And waited. But I felt nothing. I was so disappointed! It wasn't until later that evening after I returned home that I realized (duh!) that I hadn't been able to recreate the feelings of joy and happiness because no one else was there! The buildings aren't what make a church, it's the people. Sitting there I didn't feel any love because you all weren't with me. It's what we do together in community that makes the buildings come alive. It's the relationships, the work, the ministries and the love.

In the coming weeks I look forward to seeing you all again. Please feel free to give me a call or stop by during office hours if you would like to talk.

Let our journey begin!

*Pastor Stephen*



## *Relating*

*Reverend Eva Českava, Interim Religious Educator*

The Heartland District of the UUA has two program staff people. One is the District Executive, Rev. Lisa Presley, and the other is the Director of Lifespan Faith Development, Nancy Combs-Morgan. Both of these women write a regular column for the weekly newsletter, and I'd like to share one from the spring about a parenting blog and new book, written by my friend and colleague, Michelle Richards. Nancy wrote:

Just when you thought that being a Unitarian Universalist parent is something that you have to figure out all on your own, a new resource has been developed just for you! Be sure to check out the new [UU Parenting Blog](#), with author and UU Religious Educator, Michelle Richards. Here is a description from that site:

“UU Parenting,” will be a weekly discussion about parenting and liberal religion, with Michelle Richards, author of [Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting](#).

Parents need resources and information to create and share meaningful religious experiences with their children at home and meet the unique challenges of raising children as Unitarian Universalists. This is why I wrote the book and will be keeping this blog over the next few weeks. In the book I have written, and through this blog, we will address how parents and children can live their Unitarian Universalist faith everyday—from engaging in social action projects as a family, to exploring the natural world and the feelings of awe it evokes, to appreciating the interdependent web of life, to searching for truth. Please share your questions, thoughts, and ideas as well as we address what it means to raise children as Unitarian Universalists. Because whether a family chooses to light a chalice as they share meaningful words, engage in a regular meditation practice, pray together, or walk a labyrinth, they are choosing to give their children a special gift for the future, the gift of a faith tradition. And in doing so, parents are also giving something special to themselves, the gift of a close, connected family drawn together by religious faith. (Michelle Richards)

I have purchased two copies of [Tending the Flame](#) for the church. One is in the adult library in the Cottage, the other is in the RE Conference Room in the Teacher/Parent section of the RE Library. I hope you will find the blog and book useful as you parent or grandparent our UU children.

Faithfully,  
Eva.

## *Religious Education*

### *RE Family Registration*

Most of the schools in the Indianapolis area begin classes the second week of August. Family vacations are but a pleasant memory, and the excitement of a new year is everywhere.

The new church year at UUI begins mid-August as well. "Welcome Back to Church" Sunday is August 15. Following a short ceremony for the dedication of teachers, sessions for all children and youth, nursery through high school, begin that morning. There will be the usual "getting to know you" activities, creation of classroom covenants, greeting old friends and meeting new ones.

Parents are asked to register their children now. Forms may be found in the RE Office, the RE Table in the Social Hall, and on the UUI website. Welcome Back!

### *Teacher Orientation - August 14*

The new church year begins with an orientation session and planning time for all religious education teachers Saturday, August 14, from 1:00 to 4:00pm. A light lunch will be provided at 12:30, and childcare is available with reservations.

Our vibrant ministry for children and youth takes the efforts of a minimum of 36 members of our teaching teams, Family Ministry Committee and RE Council, as well as youth advisors and RE associates. If you're in the neighborhood that Saturday afternoon, drop by and give a wave of "Thanks!" to these dedicated people

## *Religious Education*

### *Multiple Intelligences: A Workshop for Parents and Teachers*

Have you every wondered why you find working number puzzles so easy as to be boring, and your friends struggle over them? Why is it your best friend can create a song out of a simple phrase, and you have difficulty with simple melodies? Recent research has discovered at least nine different "intelligences," proclivities, if you will, in humans. It makes people fascinating to each other, but sometimes can be troubling to school teachers and parents.

The Religious Education Council is presenting a Saturday morning workshop August 14, helping everyone understand the multiple preferences and talents present in everyone. This experiential presentation by our interim religious educator, Eva Českava, will engage everyone in sharing in insightful and fun activities.

To register, call the Religious Education office (317-926-5077; 317-464-8709, mailbox 2 to leave a message). There will be coffee and snacks. Childcare will be provided

with advance registration. Come find out more about yourself and those around you, and how to create engaging learning environments.

### *Dome Raising Days*

All are welcome to join in for Dome Raising Days, when the new church playground dome becomes a reality. Reserve your calendar for the morning of Saturday August 21 for working with the land and after church on Sunday August 22 to complete the structure. The 5th and 6th grade youth raised money for two years, making cookies in a jar, collecting more than a mile of pennies to raise the funds for an "older kids" addition to the church playground. Some of the first young fundraisers are now entering high school; it's time to finish this up! The entire church community shared their spare change and bought cookies and the entire church community is welcome to join in to make the vision a reality. More information to follow about the specifics of Dome Raising Days when we get closer to the dates, contact Peter Langowski.



*Grounds Cleanup Weekends*

The UUI Grounds Team has made progress this summer. We have pulled weeds, trimmed trees and bushes, and cleaned up flower beds. Did you notice how the parking spaces don't have limbs resting on your car? There is still some weeding to do. And more limbs to trim. And there always seem to be fallen limbs and branches from the mature trees.

So we are planning work groups on Saturdays August 14 and August 28 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Even if you can only come for a couple of hours, you are welcome.

We have a growing pile of limbs by the Peace Garden. But we have a chipper. We need to learn how to use it. And for safety, two should work together rather than one person alone. So if you have experience using a chipper or if you would like to learn how to use one, I'm organizing a group in-service. So let me know the best date and time for you. Contact Bob Hopp by email, [hopp@msu.edu](mailto:hopp@msu.edu), or home phone, 259-0184.

*Lovers of Learning*

Be ready next month for the much anticipated publication of the Adult Religious Committee brochure of offerings for the Fall Schedule for the first half of the church year. Also, if you have a class you would like to offer in either half of the church year, please contact Susan Weickum or Larry Miller.

*Carol Kirk Says Thank You*

Carol Kirk recently informed us that she is not planning to continue to work with children's and youth music at UUI. "I have enjoyed doing it tremendously. I love the wonderful, talented young musicians here. They are amazing. I again thank the parents who drove them to rehearsals and services. I thank UUI for buying music for them, providing an accompanist, and a sound system and audio person. Finally, I thank Lucy Newton, who asked me to do it 11 years ago (1999) and opened my life to something I have loved."



## *Creative Arts*

### *UUI Choir*

The UUI adult choir will start again in September! We will meet at 7PM on Wednesday, Sept 1 in the Cottage Music room to meet and greet, assign folders, and welcome new members. Anyone interested in singing - come check us out - no music reading experience is required. We will meet again on Sept 8 and sing at the Water Communion service on Sept 12. Hope to see everyone there - if you have any questions, please contact Dianna at [music@uui.org](mailto:music@uui.org).

### *Artists Wanted*

I hope that all of you UUI artists will put one piece of artwork in the HUUsier PalUUza art show on Sunday, September 13. There is no theme. We are looking for all media and techniques. This is an all UU exhibit, so if you know artists from other UU churches and Fellowships, please let Wendy Dougherty (255-7039 or [Wdougherty@indy.rr.com](mailto:Wdougherty@indy.rr.com)) know who they are. Also, please let Wendy know your title and medium and any other information you would like to have on the label as soon as possible.

## *UU Connections*

### *Reflections on 2010 General Assembly*

No GA is uniform, there are always highlights and lowlights, Minneapolis was no exception. But, it is always a double wonder, a fitting closing for the old church year and an inspirational beginning for the new. It is meeting old friends and making new ones. Everyone shares UU values and experiences so connecting is easy and rewarding. It is joyous singing and thought provoking sermons, it is workshops, some excellent and some forgettable. It is video reports of Breakthrough Congregations leaving one with the question, "why can't we do that?". It is wandering the Exhibit Hall and perusing the new books. It is the Plenaries, those lengthy but fascinating exchanges of viewpoints expertly steered by the skillful Moderator. General Assembly is a stressful but wonderful experience that every UU should partake of, as often as possible. It is solidarity and refreshment which binds our faith group together.

*Larry Miller*

## *Community Action*

### *It's Tutor Sign-up Time*

Once again, UUI will be providing tutors at School #43, in the Butler-Tarkington area, for grades K through 6. Some UUI members and friends have already committed to tutor...but more tutors are desperately needed.

All it requires of you is a desire to help a student in math and/or reading and an hour of your time per week. You can choose the grade you prefer to tutor in and the tutoring session can be scheduled to fit your time and that of the teacher and student. It's easy, it's fun...and very rewarding for both the student(s) and the tutor.

To find out more, and/or to agree to be a UUI tutor, please contact Don Somers, [donbanjo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donbanjo@sbcglobal.net), or call him at 546-3061. He'll show you how one little hour of your time per week can make a big difference in a child's future.

### *Has Your Moonflower Bloomed Yet?*

As part of their "green" Spring Sunday service, the UUI Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) distributed moon flowers, planted in cups, to all children (and adults) in attendance who wanted them. The intention was to inspire young people to be "greener" in their daily lives. Hopefully, if you planted one in your personal garden, it grew like a towering beanstalk and has bloomed...or soon will. Has your moon flower bloomed yet? The ESC would appreciate hearing from you about it. Contact Ray Wilson at [rwwilson@iquest.net](mailto:rwwilson@iquest.net).

## *Small Groups*

**BULBS** (Birthday Unitarian Lunch Bunch) meets 1st Mondays. Pat Lawler, 329-2779 or [patricialawler2@comcast.net](mailto:patricialawler2@comcast.net).

We will discuss issues concerning Volunteer Leadership at UUI at the next **Credo Forum** on Sunday, September 5 at 9:15 am in the Cottage Library. For more information contact Lowell McCoskey at [Monotrailbiker@aol.com](mailto:Monotrailbiker@aol.com).

**CUUPS** (Covenant of UU Pagans) meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 pm in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall. Contact Colleen Kelly, [wooglet@gmail.com](mailto:wooglet@gmail.com) or Robin Chestek, 280-1354.

The **UU Downtown Lunch** group meets at 11:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. This group of UUs meets at the Sky City Café at the Eiteljorg Museum to enjoy lunch and conversation. Contact Eric Hinkle at [ehinkle@eiteljorg.com](mailto:ehinkle@eiteljorg.com).

**UUI Drum circles** meet on the first and third Sundays each month in the Sanctuary. The Experienced drum circle meet the first Sunday at 2 PM, and the All Skill circle (we will provide drum/percussion items) meet the third Sunday at noon. For more information, contact Sandra Gruber at [sgruber@mw.net](mailto:sgruber@mw.net) or call 407-1852.

**UUI Knitting Group** Meets 2nd Saturdays at 10 am and 4th Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Cottage Library. Contact Judy Archer, 253-9770 or [jisarcher@aol.com](mailto:jisarcher@aol.com).

The **UUI Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on Wednesday, August 18th, 7:30 a.m., at the Keystone Deli, 2344 E. 53rd St. Contact Bob Kirk, [rkirk1937@aol.com](mailto:rkirk1937@aol.com) for further information.

The **UUI Photo Club** meets the second Monday of each month in the Cottage Library. The assignment for August is "Patriotism". For more information and for the file of the picture to be changed, contact Wendy Dougherty at [Wdougherty@indy.rr.com](mailto:Wdougherty@indy.rr.com) or call at 255-7039.

The Women of UUI are invited to meet for dinner on Thursday, September 9 at 6pm at Taki Japanese Restaurant at 4040 E. 82nd St. For questions, contact Susan Beauchamp at [beauartnow@yahoo.com](mailto:beauartnow@yahoo.com) or 634-2448

The **Women's Spirituality in Writing** group meets the third Tuesday of the month in the cottage library to listen to each others' written responses to an assigned topic. There is no critiquing, just an open sharing and discussion. New members are welcome. Contact Sylvia Reichel, [reichelronald@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reichelronald@sbcglobal.net).

## *Happenings in August & September*

SUN 08	MON 09	TUE 10	WED 11	THU 12	FRI 13	SAT 14
<p><b>Rev. Sinclair's First Service</b> Sanctuary 10:30am</p> <p><b>Denomina-tional Affairs</b> Cottage 12pm</p>	<p><b>Photo Club</b> Library, 7pm</p>	<p><b>UUI Board Meeting</b> Cottage, 7pm</p>		<p><b>CUUPS</b> Cottage, 7pm</p>		<p><b>Multiple Intelligences Workshop</b> Commons, 10am</p> <p><b>Teacher Orientation</b> Cottage, 1pm</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p><b>Drumming Circle</b> Sanctuary 12pm</p>						<p><b>Dome Raising</b> Grounds 8am</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p><b>Dome Raising</b> Grounds 12pm</p>				<p><b>CUUPS</b> Cottage, 7pm</p>	<p><b>Youth Bash Overnight</b> Campus, 5pm</p>	<p><b>Youth Bash Overnight</b> Campus All Day</p>
29	30	31	01	02	03	04

***Mark Your Calendars!***

Huusier Paluuzza will take place on Saturday, September 18.

$$4 \times ? = 28$$

$$7 = 1$$

## *Congregational Life*

### *July Visitors*

**7/4:** Donna P. Dible

**7/11:** Beth Adams, Starla Margan,  
Tony Macheak, John Raven, Alicia  
Silvia-Burke, Shannan Speicher

**7/18:** Ryan & Dawn Grimes, Sandra  
Meder-Hendricks, BJ Shepard-  
Pennington, Kitty Sparks, Meredith  
Waters

**7/25:** Jane Basker, Rachel Scarl

### *UUI By the Numbers*

Pledge income/Month: \$8840

Pledge income/YTD: fiscal year  
\$8840

Pledges made/YTD: \$235,856

Budgeted Pledge Income: \$235,546

Number of active pledges: 165

Average Sunday Adults: 99

Average Sunday Children/  
Youth: 40

Unitarian Universalist Church  
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